

“(d) TREATMENT OF CREDITS.—Credits shall be determined (and applied against the joint liability of the couple for tax) as if the spouses had filed a joint return.

“(e) TREATMENT AS JOINT RETURN.—Except as otherwise provided in this section or in the regulations prescribed hereunder, for purposes of this title (other than sections 1 and 63(c)) a combined return under this section shall be treated as a joint return.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out this section.”.

(b) UNMARRIED RATE MADE APPLICABLE.—So much of subsection (c) of section 1 of such Code as precedes the table is amended to read as follows:

“(c) SEPARATE OR UNMARRIED RETURN RATE.—There is hereby imposed on the taxable income of every individual (other than a married individual (as defined in section 7703) filing a joint return or a separate return, a surviving spouse as defined in section 2(a), or a head of household as defined in section 2(b)) a tax determined in accordance with the following table:”.

(c) BASIC STANDARD DEDUCTION FOR UNMARRIED INDIVIDUALS MADE APPLICABLE.—Subparagraph (C) of section 63(c)(2) of such Code is amended to read as follows:

“(C) \$3,000 in the case of an individual who is not—

“(i) a married individual filing a joint return or a separate return,

“(ii) a surviving spouse, or

“(iii) a head of household, or”.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subpart B of part II of subchapter A of chapter 61 of such Code is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 6013 the following:

“Sec. 6013A. Combined return with separate rates.”

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TREASURY, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. LOTT. I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the Treasury-Postal Service appropriations conference report and that the conference report be considered as having been read.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the report be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. REID. Objection.

MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. LOTT. There is objection. Therefore, I now move to proceed to the conference report.

Several Senators addressed the Chair.

Mr. REID. I ask that the report be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The Senator from Nevada has that right.

The clerk will read the conference report.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to read the conference report.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent further reading of the bill be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to read.

The assistant legislative clerk continued the reading of the conference report.

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will proceed.

The assistant legislative clerk continued the reading of the conference report.

Mr. CAMPBELL addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator REID, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue reading the report.

The assistant legislative clerk continued the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the further reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the report be dispensed with.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, in order for the U.S. Senate to conduct the people's business, despite the delay and frustration of the other party, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, in order that the Senate might conduct the people's business, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, in order that the Democrats not put the Senate in a stalemate, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, in order to save a little time, I have ordered some Tinkertoys for the Democrats to play with. I, therefore, ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I again ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object. Protecting the rights of the majority under the rules of the Senate, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, point of parliamentary inquiry.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Parliamentary inquiry is not in order.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with as it should be.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, in order to conduct the people's business, I again ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in order to protect the rights of thousands of Federal women, Federal employees who are women, who are denied health care, I object.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Regular order, Mr. President.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this absurdity be brought to an end.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I again ask unanimous consent that reading of the conference report be dispensed with until we conduct the people's business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I congratulate the Senator from Illinois on having brought this absurdity to the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I make a point of order that the reading is dilatory and irresponsible and again make a request—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The point of order is not well taken.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. I make a unanimous consent request that further reading of the conference report be suspended.

Mr. DURBIN. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Objection.

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. Again, I ask that this absurdity be brought to an end so the Senate can conduct its business.

Mr. REID. Is there a question? I didn't understand what he said.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I think the Senator understood. I think we ought to stop this absurdity, and stop it now, and do the people's business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. On behalf of 1.3 million Federal women who are covered under—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. On behalf of the customs and drug enforcement employees in our U.S. Government, I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. On behalf of—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. 3.6 million unintended pregnancies every year, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. HELMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. HELMS. I renew my request that further reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the reading of the conference report.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, on behalf of those who favor the Jacksonville, FL, and Orlando, FL, courthouse construction, I ask that further reading—I ask unanimous consent that further reading of the conference report be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, on behalf of those who also favor the Jacksonville and Orlando courthouse construction, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued and concluded the reading of the conference report.

(The text of the conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 7, 1998.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the motion to proceed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed to the conference report. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) would vote "no."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 312 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Abraham
Allard

Ashcroft
Bennett

Bond
Brownback

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Burns | Gramm | McConnell |
| Byrd | Grams | Murkowski |
| Campbell | Grassley | Nickles |
| Chafee | Gregg | Roberts |
| Coats | Hagel | Roth |
| Cochran | Hatch | Santorum |
| Collins | Helms | Sessions |
| Coverdell | Hutchinson | Shelby |
| Craig | Hutchison | Smith (NH) |
| D'Amato | Inhofe | Smith (OR) |
| DeWine | Jeffords | Specter |
| Domenic | Kempthorne | Stevens |
| Enzi | Kohl | Thomas |
| Faircloth | Kyl | Thompson |
| Ford | Lott | Thurmond |
| Frist | Lugar | Warner |
| Gorton | Mack | |
| Graham | McCain | |

NAYS—39

| | | |
|----------|------------|---------------|
| Akaka | Durbin | Lieberman |
| Baucus | Feingold | Mikulski |
| Biden | Feinstein | Moseley-Braun |
| Bingaman | Harkin | Moynihan |
| Boxer | Inouye | Murray |
| Breaux | Johnson | Reed |
| Bryan | Kennedy | Reid |
| Bumpers | Kerrey | Robb |
| Cleland | Kerry | Rockefeller |
| Conrad | Landrieu | Sarbanes |
| Daschle | Lautenberg | Snowe |
| Dodd | Leahy | Torricelli |
| Dorgan | Levin | Wyden |

NOT VOTING—3

| | | |
|-------|----------|-----------|
| Glenn | Hollings | Wellstone |
|-------|----------|-----------|

The motion was agreed to.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the conference report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4104), have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of October 7, 1998.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, I know there is a lot of interest in trying to determine what the schedule will be for the balance of the day and perhaps even the weekend.

It is obvious because of the feelings of the Senator from Nevada, Senator REID, with regard to the Treasury and Postal Service appropriations conference report, that he does not intend to allow the Senate to have a vote on the conference report itself anytime soon.

Therefore, as we approach the end of this session, we will probably have a vote, if we can get some accommodation here—I think we may—within a couple of hours, on or in relation to the bankruptcy bill. So we should expect another recorded vote in about 2 hours. We will need, hopefully, to get that

locked in here in the next few minutes. The main point is we will have one more vote.

Then, other than unanimous consent requests or voice votes, the only votes we would expect for the balance of this year would be on a continuing resolution, if necessary, and the omnibus appropriations bill.

Now, I will need to confer further with Senator DASCHLE. We will certainly keep Members informed as to what the schedule may be. Negotiations are continuing with regard to all of the different issues that are pending on the omnibus appropriations bill. We expect to work this weekend. We hope we will have this completed to possibly vote on Monday. If that is not possible, we will let Members know as soon as some determination is made. For now, we will expect a vote in a couple of hours, and then we would go to the vote on the bankruptcy bill. That would be it as far as recorded votes for tonight.

Mr. DASCHLE. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have been getting questions about what our intentions are with regard to a new CR. My understanding is that we would be contemplating a CR that would take us at least through Monday.

Mr. LOTT. That's correct. We have discussed that with administration officials this morning. They indicated that they understood it was just a physical problem in terms of getting final agreements and getting paperwork ready, and a short-term CR would be no problem from their viewpoint. I discussed that with you. We anticipate a CR that would take us until Monday at midnight. So there would be no question that we are still working, and there is no threat of a Government shutdown, while we continue to count on our appropriators to do their work, and we hope to get it completed this weekend.

Mr. LEAHY. Will the leader yield for a question?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I tell my friend from Mississippi, we have on the calendar 22 Federal judges pending, plus another 5 or 6 court of claims. Can the distinguished leader give us any advice on what might happen?

Mr. LOTT. I have been working diligently to get some of the more controversial judges done. We did have a couple votes. I was trying to get Paez done today. The time is going to be consumed by reading the Treasury/Postal Service conference report and now the appearance of having to read the Bankruptcy Reform conference report. So that has been pushed aside. I tried to move three nominations last night. It was objected to. We are in the usual last days of the session where everybody is holding this one on the basis of that one. I think where we are is, over the next few days as we make progress, if we can get agreements on

some things, then we will probably get agreements on all things. They are all interrelated. We will have to see how that plays out.

Mr. LEAHY. I am prepared to pray and consult with the distinguished leader.

Mr. LOTT. I appreciate that attitude of the Senator from Vermont. He has been very helpful, and he continues to remind me of the need for these judges.

Mr. CRAIG. Will the leader yield for a moment?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

BIRTHDAY WISHES FOR SENATOR LOTT

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, on behalf of all of us here on the floor and all colleagues here in the Senate, we know this is a stressful day. It should actually be a joyful day for Senator LOTT. It is his birthday and we wish him a happy birthday.

[Applause.]

Mr. LOTT. Thank you all very much. It is a joyful day. I resented when Senator DASCHLE came over and told me he was only about 50, reminding me of his youth. Then Senator STROM THURMOND welcomed me into his range of age. I don't know quite what that meant. Actually, in spite of all the things we have working, it has been a great day. Actually, I enjoy every day here and I appreciate the friendship of all of you on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. BUMPERS. Mr. President, not to be the skunk at the lawn party, but that reminds me of a story I feel like I have to share with you. Recently, in the caucus, Senator DASCHLE announced the birthdays of three Senators that would occur in the ensuing week. He named them, and JOHN GLENN was one of them, and I forget the other two. BARBARA MIKULSKI was one. Everybody applauded, and I turned to Senator TORRICELLI and said, "Isn't it strange that we applaud birthdays in this country?" He said, "It is an American anachronism that we applaud the march toward death."

Mr. LOTT. Was that supposed to be humorous?

Mr. DODD. Will the leader yield?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I yield to Senator DODD for a question.

Mr. DODD. Mr. Leader, I don't want to disrupt your birthday, but I have a unanimous-consent request I want to make at an appropriate time, which I suspect the majority will object to. I want to be able to do it before we move on to the next order of business. I don't know the plan here.

Mr. LOTT. If we could complete comments on this, and then you will have an opportunity to do that. You have put me on notice, but let us try to do this.

Mr. BYRD. Will the leader yield to me?

Mr. LOTT. I am delighted to yield to Senator BYRD.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I was listening to the debate going on on the